display panel **37** also to form a loop **37***a* (not shown) when the apparatus is in its closed configuration. Consequently, creases in the display panel **37** are avoided. The resolution required of the display panel **37** will depend on the use of the apparatus and if the apparatus is merely a calculator, a low resolution display would be acceptable.

Microcomputer circuitry **38** and a battery pack **39** are located in respective body portions **31**, **32**.

Referring to FIGS. **14** and **15**, a fourth embodiment of the present invention comprises a body **41**, an LCD panel **42** mounted to the front face of the body, an ENTER key **43** beside the LCD panel **42** and a keyboard **44** located at the rear face of the body **41**. The body **41** contains electronic circuitry for providing "personal organizer" functions.

Referring to FIGS. **16** and **17**, a fifth embodiment of the present invention is identical to the second embodiment, described above, except for the keyboard arrangement. The keyboard comprises first and second groups of keys **7**,**8** on respective body portions **1**,**2**. The keys **7**,**8** are arranged in rows on curves around lower corner regions (as viewed in FIG. **16**) of the first and second body portions **1**,**2**. The groups of keys **7**,**8** are located in respective hinged panels **51**,**52**. The hinged panels **51**,**52** are provided with tabs **53**,**54** which can be used to tilt the panels **51**,**52** away from the body portions **1**,**2** for use.

Referring to FIG. **18**, a sixth embodiment of the present invention is identical to the second embodiment, described above, except for the keyboard arrangement. The keyboard comprises two groups of four eight-way tilt switches **67**,**68**. The tilt-switches **67**,**68** are arranged in rows on curves around lower corner regions (as viewed in FIG. **18**) of the first and second body portions **1**,**2**. Each switch **67**,**68** can be tilted in eight directions each of which causes a connection, representing a different character, to be made. Thus, with eight such switches **64** different characters can be input by a user. Eight-way tilt switches are known from video game consoles.

In use, an apparatus, according to the present invention, is held in the manner of an open book so that the display is visible. The keyboard keys are arranged such that they can be operated by the user's fingers when the apparatus is being held in this manner.

In the foregoing, apparatus according to the present invention has been described with rectangular displays. It will be appreciated that displays of other shapes can be used. Likewise, apparatus, embodying the present invention, need not be rectangular.

It will be appreciated that apparatus according to the present invention may include any of the various user input devices, e.g. joysticks, pens etc. Additionally, various data storage devices such as floppy disk drives, hard disk drives, CD-ROM drives and ic or memory cards may be used in an apparatus according to the present invention, either individually or in combination.

Solar panels may be provided in addition to or in place of the batteries mentioned in the above description.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable electronic apparatus comprising:

substantially rectangular, planar first and second body portions hinged together such that the apparatus can be opened and closed in the manner of a book;

a display panel, and

a user input means for generating commands for controlling the contents that are displayed on said display,

wherein

the display panel and the user input means are disposed back-to-back relative to each other on opposite sides of the body portion,

the user input means comprises a plurality of manually operable elements arranged in at least one row, each row being on a respective curve that, when the apparatus is oriented for normal use, encloses a bottom corner region of the body,

the display panel being located at and extending over the inside faces of both portions, and

the user input means being located at an outside face of one of said portions.

2. An apparatus according to claim **1**, wherein the display panel comprises first and second display elements, the display elements being movable, when the apparatus is in its open configuration, between spaced and mutually abutting configurations.

3. An apparatus according to claim **1**, wherein the display panel comprises a single flexible display structure.

4. An apparatus according to claim **1**, wherein the display panel comprises a light emitting polymer display device.

5. An apparatus according to claim **1**, wherein the operable elements comprise keys of a keyboard means.

6. An apparatus according to claim **1**, wherein the keyboard means comprises a membrane keyboard.

7. An apparatus according to claim **1**, wherein the user input means is distributed between said portions.

8. An apparatus according to claim **1**, wherein the operable elements comprise a plurality of keys mounted to a panel, the panel being pivotable between a first position substantially flat with respect to a said body portion and a second position angled away therefrom.

9. An apparatus according to claim **8**, wherein said panel is arranged to pivot about an axis adjacent to the lower edge of said portion.

10. A portable electronic apparatus comprising first and second body portions and a hinge joining the first and second body portions together such that the apparatus can be opened and closed in the manner of a book, and a display, the display being configured to extend over the inside faces of and between said portions to form a single viewing area.

11. An apparatus according to claim **10**, wherein the display comprises first and second planar display panels, the display panels being movable, when the apparatus is in its open configuration, between spaced and mutually abutting configurations.

12. An apparatus according to claim **10**, wherein the display comprises a single flexible display structure.

13. An apparatus according to claim **10**, wherein the display comprises a light emitting polymer display device.

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